

Labour Force Statistics Highlights

A release from the Province of British Columbia's central statistical agency

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The **unemployment rate** decreased 0.3 percentage points to 5.8%.



The **participation rate** decreased 0.1 percentage points to 63.6%.



The **employment rate** remained the same at 59.8%.

B.C. HIGHLIGHTS

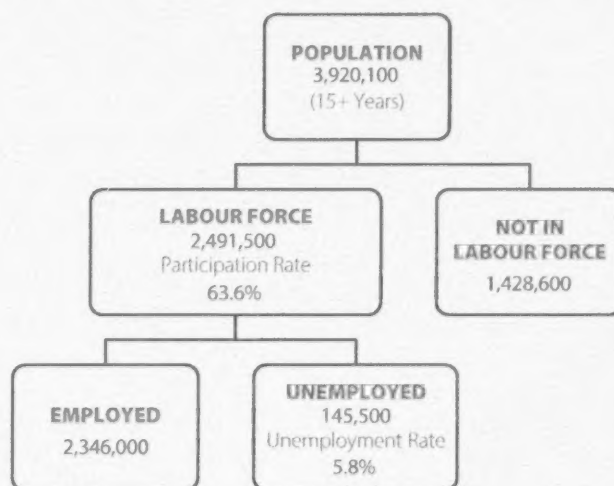
In November, employment in B.C. increased by 4,200 jobs, while the labour force contracted by 3,100. The net result was a 0.3 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate to 5.8%.

The number of full-time jobs was steady (+1,000), while there was a slight rise in part-time employment (+3,300). Full-time employment declined among adults aged 55 and over (-7,700), but was more than offset by increases in part-time employment (+12,000). The decrease in full-time employment for those aged 55 and over was counterbalanced by increases for persons aged 25 to 54 (+7,200); however, there were losses in part-time employment for this age group (-12,800).

The number of public sector employees (+15,400) and the number self-employed (+8,100) climbed in November, while employment in the private sector (-19,300) fell. Compared to November 2013, private sector jobs (+20,000, or +1.4%), the number of self-employed people (+18,900, or +4.8%), and public sector employment (+8,100, or +1.8%) were all up.

B.C. AND WEST

The unemployment rate in B.C. was the 4th lowest in Canada after Saskatchewan (3.4%), Alberta (4.5%) and Manitoba (5.1%).



NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, following two months of notable gains, employment was little changed in November. The unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage points to 6.6%.

GENDER

In November, the unemployment rate for women in B.C. aged 25 years and over was unchanged at 5.2%, despite a decrease in employment (-4,800), because the labour force declined by a larger amount (-5,100). The unemployment

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rate among men aged 25 years and over fell by 0.1 percentage points to 5.1% as the size of the labour force grew to a lesser extent (+2,600) than the number of jobs (+3,600).

Compared to 12 months ago, the employment rate for women aged 25 years and over was down 0.2 percentage points to 55.9%, while for men the rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 65.3%.

YOUTHS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS

In November, employment for youths 15 to 24 years of age increased by 5,400, while the size of the labour was stable (-600). The net result was a 1.6 percentage point drop in the unemployment rate to 10.0%. Compared to November 2013, growth in the number of employed youths (+21,000) was greater than the growth in the population (actually a decline at -2,000), leading to a 3.7 percentage point rise in the employment rate to 56.1%.

CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS (CMAS)

With the exception of Abbotsford-Mission (-3,600, or -3.6%), all of the CMAs reported employment gains. Kelowna (+2,600, or +2.8%) registered the largest increase, followed by Victoria (+2,500, or +1.74%) and Vancouver (+1,400, or +0.1%).

INDUSTRY

Employment in the goods-producing sector edged down by 1,300 jobs (-0.3%) in November to 450,100. In a reversal from October, employment declines were reported for the construction (-2,000) and manufacturing (-5,900) industries. On the other hand, employment increased in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction (+4,300), more than reversing the reported losses in October for this industry. On a year-over-year basis, jobs

in the goods-producing sector were up by 2,000 (+0.4%), when compared to November 2013.

Employment in the services-producing sector increased by 5,500 to 1,896,000 in November, this is the third increase in as many months. Increases were reported for public administration (+12,600; recovering three quarters of the decline in October), trade (+9,400), education services (+5,700), and information, culture and recreation (+2,600). There were notable declines in professional, scientific and technical services (-8,000; more than offsetting October's gain of 5,500) and transportation and warehousing (-7,100). Jobs in the health care and social assistance industry were unchanged (+400). Over the last twelve months, an estimated 45,000 (+2.4%) jobs have been added to the services-producing sector.

[Click here](#) to visit the Labour Force Statistics page on the BC Stats website

DID YOU KNOW?

Statistics Canada has two monthly programs that measure employment levels and trends: the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours (SEPH).

The LFS provides the first timely picture of overall labour market conditions, with total employment, unemployment and unemployment rate, as well as information on which groups of Canadians are most affected by changes in the labour market.

Approximately two months later, the SEPH provides additional detail of the same month by industry, along with estimations of earnings and hours worked.

The LFS provides a broader picture of employment, including employment in agriculture and the number of

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self-employed. The SEPH provides a highly reliable gauge of monthly change in non-farm payroll employment.

Because the SEPH does not survey the self-employed, the LFS definition of employment is much broader than the SEPH. Consequently, the LFS employment level will exceed the SEPH employment level. (*Source: Statistics Canada, Guide to the Labour Force Survey, 2014*)

British Columbia Unemployment Rates

November 2014

Unadjusted, 3 Month Moving Average

